



## Cabinet 21 October 2014

### Recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance (Oct14/12)

#### 1. Summary and reasons for recommendation

- 1.1 On 24 September 2014 the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee considered Report **F135**, which updated Members on a revised West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance.
- 1.2 It is good practice to review arrangements from time to time and as such a review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance has been undertaken to ensure it continues to reflect best practice, legislation and shared services arrangements.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that subject to the approval of full Council, the West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance, attached as Appendix A to Report F135, be adopted.

#### Contact details

	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>
Name	Councillor David Ray	Rachael Mann
Title	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance	Head of Resources and Performance
Telephone	01359 250912	01638 719245
E-mail	<a href="mailto:david.ray@stedsbc.gov.uk">david.ray@stedsbc.gov.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:rachael.mann@westsuffolk.gov.uk">rachael.mann@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>
	<b>Chairman of the Committee</b>	
Name	Councillor Sarah Broughton	
Title	Chairman	
Telephone	01284 787327	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:sarah.broughton@stedsbc.gov.uk">sarah.broughton@stedsbc.gov.uk</a>	

### **3. Strategic priorities**

- 3.1 Proper governance arrangements in place provide a suitable framework when seeking to achieve the key priorities of the West Suffolk Strategic Plan.

### **4. Key issues**

- 4.1 St Edmundsbury Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 4.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.

#### **Local Code of Corporate Governance**

- 4.3 The Local Code of Corporate Governance sets out the principles of how the Council ensures compliance with statutory requirements and best practice guidance on corporate governance. Whilst the adoption of a Local Code is not a statutory requirement it represents best practice and is a key element of a councils overarching governance arrangements and its commitment to good corporate governance.
- 4.4 The Local Code of Corporate Governance is subject to annual review to ensure it remains up to date. Minor adjustments have been made to the document, at Appendix A to Report F135, to reflect it is now a joint West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance between St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council.
- 4.5 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee considered the revised joint West Suffolk Local Code of Corporate Governance and has put forward a recommendation as provided in Section 2 above.

### **5. Other options considered**

- 5.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

### **6. Community impact**

- 6.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

### **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

### **8. Financial and resource implications** *(including asset management implications)*

- 8.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

**9. Risk/opportunity assessment** *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

9.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

**10. Legal and policy implications**

10.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

**11. Wards affected**

11.1 All Wards.

**12. Background papers**

12.1 See Report F135 to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Local Code of Corporate Governance / Annual Governance Statement 2013-2014

**13. Documents attached**

None.

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